

AMERICANS HAVE THEIR FAULTS, TOO

Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler Calls Attention to Some National Foibles.

WHERE WE FALL SHORT

Pittsburgh, Feb. 10.—"When America speaks or when America acts, the whole world should know that it speaks and acts as a nation and not as a series of conflicting and antagonistic groups or sections," said Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia university, in an address at the annual dinner of the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce here tonight. He was considering the question, "Is America drifting?" and his answer was in the affirmative. It was drifting in respect to its foreign policy, and this was due in part both to the form of government and the temperament of the American people.

Democracies find it difficult to engage effectively in international intercourse, he said, and the American democracy even more so than that of the French republic, or any other republic, because the division of power and responsibility between executives and legislature, between the nation and the constituent states, makes it difficult to formulate and execute a consistent policy.

Live In Glass House.

"We Americans," he said, "live in far too much of a glass house to make it wise to throw stones at other nations who refer to a treaty as a scrap of paper."

"Our political habits make increasingly frequent the modification or repeal of explicit treaty provisions by a subsequent act of congress without any notice to the other high contracting power. Our form of government permits and our temperament encourages the denial by a state legislature or other local authority of rights secured to aliens by the solemn act of the treaty-making power. The government of the United States has bound itself by numerous treaties to give rights to aliens, but despite this fact the personal and property rights of aliens have been repeatedly violated, and our friendly relations with foreign countries have thereby been put in jeopardy. Within the memory of the generation now living there have been outrageous attacks on aliens who were entitled by treaty to our protection in Wyoming, in Washington, in Idaho, in Montana, in Oregon, in Alaska, in California, in Louisiana, in Texas, in Colorado, in Mississippi and in Florida. It has been asserted that in the passage of the La Follet shipping bill more than twenty treaties were rudely violated."

Loyal Nationalism Needed.

"If it be asked how are conditions to be bettered, the answer is, by a more intense, a more thorough, and a more loyal nationalism. We must be Americans first, and citizens of a state or residents of a particular community afterwards. We must give to the government of the United States the power which it does not at present possess, to protect the treaty rights of aliens through direct action in the federal courts. Americans must give up their increasing tendency to think in terms of classes, or groups, or sections, or states and learn to think

nationally in terms of the whole United States, its aims, its interests, and its honor. When America speaks or when America acts, the whole world should know that it speaks and acts as a nation and not as a series of conflicting and antagonistic groups or sections. When this comes to pass we shall have ceased to drift in our international policies and relationships."

Drifting in Other Ways.

In other respects, Dr. Butler found America was drifting, one of them being with relation to industrial problems. "Our present habit," he said, "is to let things drift until some acute crisis occurs and then to meet it by surrender or by compromise, without any regard to the future but with eyes fixed only on the immediate present. The greater part of the public seems to be utterly oblivious to the critical position in which the great railway systems of the United States have been put, not by constructive regulation or governmental supervision, but by policies of competing, conflicting, and unrelated persecutions and pin-pricking. The great railways of the United States are national assets and they constitute the arterial system of our commercial and industrial life. They are asking, and they should quickly receive, single, consistent, and well ordered constructive oversight and regulation from the national government and from the national government alone. It was local interference with commerce that led directly to the formation of the constitution of the United States. It is local interference with commerce that now constitutes perhaps our most difficult domestic problem."

Pleads for New Policy.

Dr. Butler also referred in this discussion to drifting tendencies against considering great industries and corporate undertakings as primarily something human and not merely something mechanical, or material, or financial. He pleaded for a new policy to govern many of our economic and industrial relationships.

In respect to national service, the country was also drifting. "No one can possibly hate the state of mind and the spirit that are militarism more than I do," said he. "And no one would resist more actively and enthusiastically any movement to change the peace-loving industrial spirit and temper of our people for any of the older forms of militarism that are now slowly going to their deaths, let us hope never to be resurrected on the battlefields of Europe."

Obligations and Opportunities.

"But there is a call to national service and a preparation for it which, so far from sharing the spirit of militarism, are only the voice of democracy conscious of its obligations and its duties, as well as of its rights and opportunities. We speak in general terms of the obligation which every citizen owes to his country, but what have we done to make that obligation precise and to fit each citizen to discharge it? What have we done to render more than lip-service to the democratic principle? Compulsion is not foreign to the spirit of democracy, although democracy uses it sparingly. Democracy lays its hands on the child, and for its own protection as well as for its good, says that he and his parents must discharge a certain obligation through attendance upon the elementary school. Through such compulsory attendance, the state endeavors to protect itself and each individual citizen from the dangers and limitations that attend illiteracy and the lack of all intellectual and moral discipline. In the light of our present experience, why should not the na-

tion say to every youth approaching manhood, 'We believe it to be in your interest and in ours that you should be required for a limited period in one year, or in each of two successive years, to subject yourself to definite, intensive, continuous training under national supervision and control, in order that you may first gain a new and vivid sense of the meaning and obligations of your citizenship, and in order that you may, in the second place, be physically and intellectually prepared to take part in your country's service, physical or military, should occasion for that use of your powers ever arise?'

This Cannot Be Shirked.

"This question goes to the very roots of an effective and loyal and continuing democracy. It can be shirked if you will, it can be compromised if you will, it can be postponed if you will, but it can be neither shirked nor compromised nor postponed without damage to the life of the people of the United States."

"We are drifting, too, in matters of public administration. Taking it all in all, our government is probably the most incompetent and most costly on earth. This is because it is so largely a government by those who talk and not by those who do. We pay enough in taxes, and far more than enough, to get thoroughly satisfactory administration of the public business; but we do not get this because competent administrators so rarely concern themselves with government or are chosen to responsible legislative or executive office."

"We are so concerned with our personal affairs, with our personal undertakings, and with our immediate interests that we are letting America drift. Until every American feels his personal responsibility for the formulation of a definite public policy at home and abroad, and for the businesslike administration of public affairs, America will continue to drift, and the rest of the world will continue to treat her as the spoiled child of the goddess of good fortune."

Kansas City Ad Men Guests of Ad Club Here Monday Eve

The Omaha Ad club will hold the first of a series of frolics at the Rome hotel Monday night, when a delegation of Ad club members from Kansas City will come to Omaha to visit. The Omaha club has been engaged on a heavy educational program during the winter months and it is intended that these frolics, which will be monthly affairs, will break the monotony of study which has engaged the attention of the members.

An Ad club side degree called "The Cannons" will be introduced by a degree team from Kansas City. It is said that this degree is a boost for the live stock industry of Omaha and Kansas City and aside from its impressiveness provides a riot of fun for the members.

Quite a program of entertainment features have been provided for the meeting Monday night in addition to addresses by men from Kansas City and Omaha. Invitations have been extended to President Wilson, Pancho Villa, Annette Kellerman, Kaiser William, King George and others. It is expected that this will be the first of a series of meetings where delegations from Omaha and Kansas City Ad clubs will exchange visits.

BURGESS-NASH HAS NEW READY-TO-WEAR BUYER.



HARRY J. HEARNE.

Harry J. Hearne has been appointed by Burgess-Nash company as buyer and manager for their ready-to-wear sections on the second floor. Mr. Hearne comes very highly recommended, with years of experience both manufacturing and retail to his credit and was for many years associated with Charles Stevens & Bros., of Chicago, Ill.

Over Two Hundred Aliens Take Oath To Serve America

The record week at "naturalization desk" in the court house closed with a total of sixty-nine second papers issued and 136 first papers, the majority of them having been taken out by former subjects of the central powers. News of the break with Germany precipitated a stampede on the part of Teutons and Austrians to become citizens of the United States. Aliens who do not declare their intentions of becoming citizens of the United States are regarded in the eyes of the law as foreign enemies in case of war with the lands of their birth.

Iowa State Uni Wrestlers Beaten. Ames, Ia., Feb. 10.—(Special Telegram.)—Iowa university's wrestling team, holder of the western collegiate championship, was crushed under a 33 to 7 score by Ames here tonight before a crowd of 2,000. Mayser's Cyclones had their own way save in the welterweight bout, which Jensen of Iowa won in two falls.

WHERE FRENCHMEN AND BRITONS MEET

Point Where Alliance Between British Tommy and Poilu Becomes Reality.

NO BREAK IN THE LINE

(Correspondence of The Associated Press.)

With the British Armies in the Field, France, Jan. 12.—There is a point on the western battle line where the British Tommy and French Poilu meet—where the alliance between Great Britain and France becomes a reality.

There they are dug in, the man in khaki and the man in pale blue. There in the long watches of wintry nights in the front trenches they sit about a charcoal fire and smoke and think together, and make understandable signs and sounds, though it is seldom that either can speak the other's tongue. It is not a show spot, this meeting place of the two great allied armies in France, nor is there a definite mark to show the dividing line. It is just a mingling point, not an abrupt juncture. For perhaps 100 yards at the joining sector the French and British soldiers fraternize and visit.

No Break in the Line.

There is no break in the line anywhere along the front and from time to time the meeting place of the French and British armies is shifted, according to the plans and the agreements of the French and British staffs. Often the Germans are at a loss to know who is opposing them—French or British—and all sorts of ruses and subterfuges are resorted to in the attempt to gain information. It is considered of great importance on both sides to know just who the fellows are in the opposing trench, and when there is a relief, or change in the line, the world war resolves itself at least locally into a hazardous game of hide and seek.

Tommy and Poilu have the greatest respect for each other and if Tommy has been over very long he generally knows a phrase or two of French, which, coupled with war slang that is common to both armies, gives a medium of communication mutually enjoyed. In the front lines trenches they share and exchange their little belongings like so many school children swapping luncheon goodies at recess time. Cigarettes, tobacco and chocolate are traded back and forth and oftentimes the midnight meal for Frenchman and Englishman is heated over the same little stove, carefully concealed from the enemy lest a hand grenade should upset the supper plans.

This stubborn, dogged, foot-by-foot warfare, with its mire and mud, its redoubts and dugouts and its intricate

geography of trench upon trench, seldom lends itself to pictures of martial splendor, but without design or arrangement there occurred a few days ago a spectacle which will live long in the memory of the few outsiders privileged to witness it.

Exchange Salutations.

Two great contingents of the French and British armies met upon the road, exchanged salutations, and passed. One was "coming out," the other was "going in." Each column must have been at least seven miles long. And with each was all the paraphernalia, the panoply and the impedimenta of modern warfare. There was no studied display to the spectacle, no full dress, no glinting steel nor burnished brass. The day was cold and gray and wet and everywhere was a grim realization of the business, the machinery of war—war just over the horizon.

When the two columns were fully abreast the military picture had attained its fullest expression. From a point of eminence one could look down upon the undulating road and see for miles the two-colored ribbon formed by the marching men—the British khaki on the right, the French blue to the left. The columns were made up of infantry and field artillery—horse artillery the British call it. There were the famous French "75s" or "Soixantes quinze"—the extreme of gun simplicity and effectiveness. Some were painted blue and other had a mottled coat to make them fade all the more vaguely into the landscape and thus cheat the spying eyes of hostile airmen. Their smoke-stained barrels were eloquent of the fact that these were no novices at the game of war. They were out of the line now for a brief respite, only to go in again later.

Opposite the "75s" were the British eighteen-pounders—not so slim and graceful, perhaps, as their French prototypes, but just about all that a gun should be. British gunners are willing to admit that the French gun is "rather some weapon," but they have a real affection for their own field piece which is absolutely unshakable.

Punctuating the blue and khaki ribbons now and then were little patches of smoke and steam, rising from the field kitchens, for dinner was being cooked "on the go." It was a little after noon that the two columns halted and there, mingled in a roadway lined with the gaunt remains of shell-torn trees, Tommy and Poilu sat down and ate side by side.

Sight for Frenchmen.

It was the good fortune of the correspondent of the Associated Press in the field with the British armies to motor through the entire length of the blue and brown columns. It was easy to see that the passing spectacle of the opposite army was of intense personal and professional interest to Frenchman and Briton alike.

The French never cease to marvel at the Scotchmen in their khaki tunics, plaid kilts and bare knees. The Scots, who were in the long, brown line on this particular day, had a small but vigorous pipe band with them and the Highland music delighted the passing Poilus.

And to the British eyes the French soldier is magnificent. Tall and stalwart men rode and marched in the blue line that passed the brown. Many of them had been in the fighting since the first days of the German invasion, but the more than two years of the hardships of war apparently had made no inroads upon their magnificent physique. Strong and clean of limb they were, some of them fiercely bearded despite the serio-comic usage of a few months ago that the beard of the Poilu must go. But without a beard a Poilu would cease to be a Poilu. All were spashed with the inevitable mud of the broken battlefields. The horses, looking warm and happy in their long winter coats, were fairly covered with mud as well.

Something about the spectacle reminded one of the civil war days in America. Perhaps it was the old lumber wagons in the line. They tried other sorts of more modern wagons at the beginning of hostilities in Europe, but soon the old lumber came back into their own.

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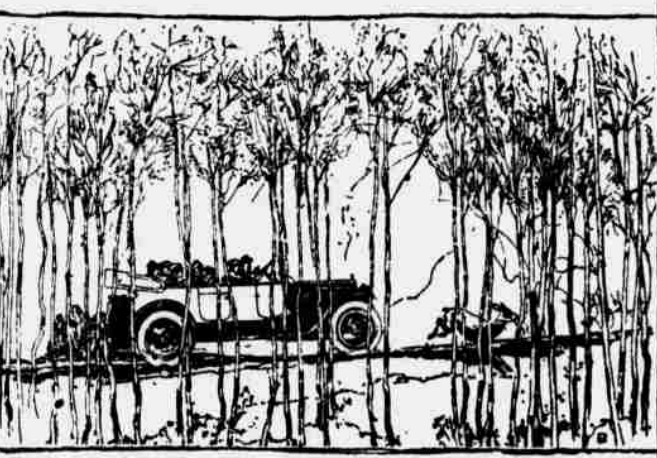
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